

## Juduser

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2022 9:38 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** OPPOSE S.B. 16

Dear Judiciary Committee members,

For decades, Connecticut has had some of the strictest gun laws in the country that date all the way back to 1993 when the first assault weapons ban was signed into law. In 2013, Connecticut's assault weapons ban was modified to outlaw even more firearms. Now, Governor Lamont wants to modify the ban once again, and deal the fatal blow to the Second Amendment in the state of Connecticut. Currently, Connecticut gun owners are subject to an expensive and time consuming permitting scheme, an extremely limited number of firearms that are legal to own, limited capacity magazines that are barely usable for self defense, and an overly complicated framework of laws where one slight misstep will turn them into a felon for life. Enough is enough.

Understandably, Governor Lamont and the legislature wants to reduce violent crime in the state of Connecticut. However, these laws will have no measurable effect on crime, just like our state's restrictive laws failed to stop the Sandy Hook massacre and fail to stop shootings in cities like Hartford. I see no reason that these laws will work given the failures of previous legislation. It is often said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over again and expecting a different result. Put plainly and simply, the state's approach to guns is absolute insanity. Despite our governor and our legislators claiming that semiautomatic rifles and standard capacity magazines have no place in a civilized society, they insist that the state police that protect them in the capitol building and elsewhere are armed to the teeth with these weapons; all while denying their constituents the means to an effective self defense. This is a tower so ivory, it is blinding to look at.

Perhaps more even more egregious than Governor Lamont's proposed modifications to the assault weapon ban are his proposed carry bans. If enacted, this legislation will prohibit carrying firearms on public transportation, in the vicinity of public demonstrations, and at polling places. These restrictions have one purpose and one purpose only: to prevent as many people from lawfully carrying firearms as possible. Particularly egregious is the ban on carrying firearms in the vicinity of protests. In recent years many protests have devolved into unprecedented violence where people have been badly beaten and buildings burned down with the intent to harm the occupants inside. To disallow law abiding people to defend themselves from this extreme violence is pure nonsense. Furthermore, as we have seen across the country, including in our own capitol city, protests can be formed in several minutes and without notice. Will this law include protections for individuals who suddenly find themselves in the middle of a protest they have no knowledge of? I presume not.

Also included in this bill is a provision that will allow law enforcement to demand those carrying firearms produce a permit, even when they are not suspected of a crime. This heavy handed tactic is

akin to the police pulling over someone who is obeying all traffic laws, just to see if they have a drivers license. It makes no sense and serves no other purpose than to harass those who are legally carrying firearms.

Additionally, I find Governor Lamont's comment that "we have more d\*mn guns in this state than ever before" to be particularly disturbing because it reveals his true intentions to disarm every adult in the state of Connecticut while he and the legislature continue to be protected by the very weapons they intend to ban. I urge you in the strongest possible terms DO NOT participate in our governor's dystopian nightmare.

Finally, there was mass noncompliance with the 2013 assault weapons ban with an estimated fifty percent of gun owners refusing to comply. I see no reason that this will change in the future. The people taken from their families and placed in metal cages for failure to comply will not be hardened criminals, gangsters, or murderers. They will be our mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, coworkers, friends, and above all – your constituents. Do not make criminals out of them.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Purdy

Simsbury, CT Resident

CCDL Member